

REMARKS

Summary

Claims 1-3 were pending and all of the claims were rejected in the Office action. New Claims 4-6 have been added to set forth subject matter to which the Applicants are entitled. The specification has been amended to add a priority claim which has been previously asserted and acknowledged. No new matter has been introduced. The Applicants have carefully considered the reasons advanced by the Examiner and respectfully traverse the rejections in view of the discussion presented below.

Claim Rejections

35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakahara et al. (US 5,982,470; "Nakahara") in view of Sasuga et al. (US 5,680,183; "Sasuga"). The Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner has not made out a *prima facie* case of obviousness.

Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, metal lead wirings connected to the transparent electrodes on one substrate so that ends of the transparent electrodes are overlapped on the lead wirings to form overlap portions; a transparent dummy electrode on the substrate opposite to a connection portion between the transparent electrodes and the lead wirings; the transparent dummy electrode formed to avoid positions opposite to the overlap portions.

In the Office action, the Examiner asserts that the Nakahara teaches "metal lead wirings (Figure 26 element 19) ... connected to the transparent electrodes ... to

form connected portions (Figure 26 elements 19 and 4) ... wherein the transparent dummy electrode is formed to avoid positions opposite to the connection portions (Figures 26 and 27).” The Applicants performed an electronic word search of Nakahara, and cannot identify the use of the word “metal”. The only description of the material of which electrodes is formed states that they are formed of indium tin oxide, or the like (col 6, lines 50-53), and thus element 19 is not taught by Nakahara as a metal lead wiring. Elements 19 and 4 are identified as “connected portions” and this is not the same as “connection portions”. In any event, the transparent dummy electrode 44 which is formed of on the opposite substrate to the “connected portion” is seen in both Figures 26 and 27 of Nakahara to be formed in a position opposite the connected portion 19. This does not correspond to the subject matter of Claim 1, where “the transparent dummy electrode formed to avoid positions opposite to the overlap portions.” The Examiner does not assert that Sasuga remedies this deficiency. Rather, Sasuga is cited to teach that metal lead wiring may be overlapped on a transparent electrode to make a connection.

Hence, the combination of the references does not teach or suggest all of the elements and limitations of Claim 1, and a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been made out. As such, the question of whether there is a motivation or suggestion to combine the references is moot. Claims 2 and 3 are claims dependent on an allowable claim and are allowable, without more.

New Claims

New Claims 4-6 have been introduced. They find support in the specification at, for example, page 7, lines 13-16. Claims 4-6 are dependent on Claim 1, and are allowable, without more.

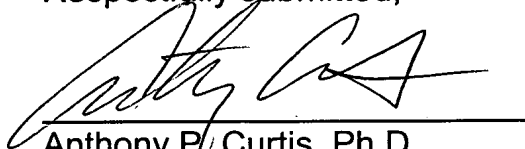
Conclusion

Claims 1 – 6 are pending.

For at least the reasons given above, the Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are allowable.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned in the event that a telephone interview would expedite consideration of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anthony P. Curtis', is written over a horizontal line.

Anthony P. Curtis, Ph.D.
Registration No. 46,193
Agent for Applicants

BRINKS HOFER GILSON & LIONE
P.O. BOX 10395
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60610
(312) 321-4200